

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF CHESHAM



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**REPORT**  
of the  
**MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH**  
and the  
**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR**  
for the year 1964



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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR 1964



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

Chairman of the Council: Councillor W.T. Moulder, J.P., C.C.

HEALTH, PLANNING AND ESTATES COMMITTEE

Chairman

Councillor J.J.T. Roberts

Councillor F.O. Bell, O.B.E., B.A.

Councillor Mrs. F.K. Brandon, C.C.

Councillor H.T. Clarke

Councillor Mrs. K.L. Harries

Councillor Mrs. D.A.C. Hogarth

Councillor C. Raper

Councillor W.T. Moulder, C.C., J.P.

Councillor A.H.J. Baines, M.A., C.C.

Councillor W.P. Scott.

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health

R.E. Atkinson, M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.

Other Appointments: The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for Amersham Rural District Council, and Beaconsfield Urban District Council.

Deputy Divisional School Medical Officer,  
and Assistant County Medical Officer.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

Ethel G. Jennings, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. B.A.O., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

L.D. Saturley, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., A.I. Hsg.

Other Appointment: Housing Manager to  
Chesham Urban District Council.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

A.P. Wells, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

D.G. Lord, Cert. P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I. (appointed 1.5.64.)

Assistant Rodent Officer

A. Palmer

Clerk

J.C. How

Shorthand Typist

Mrs. W. Stevens, resigned 31.8.64.

Mrs. D. Drysdale, appointed 10.8.64.

Junior Clerk

Miss M. Baldwin



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

Tel: Chesham 2622

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Chesham,  
Bucks.

June, 1965.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Chesham Urban District Council.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the environmental health and sanitary circumstances of the Council's district for the year 1964.

It is a great pleasure to record the co-operation and help given by the Chief Public Health Inspector and other members of the Public Health Department and to report on the very satisfactory degree of co-operation which exists between this department and all the many others involved in maintaining and improving the health of the public.

The health of the district as reflected by the vital statistics and notifications of infectious diseases has been very satisfactory.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R.E. ATKINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.





# ARRANGEMENT OF REPORT

Page Nos.

## SECTION I - GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

1 - 4

General Statistics

Vital Statistics

## SECTION II - HEALTH SERVICES

5 - 6

Hospital Services

Laboratory Facilities

Ambulance Service

Midwifery & Home Nursing

Child Welfare Centres

Chesham Old People's Welfare Committee

Medical Comforts Depot

## SECTION III - NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS

7

## SECTION IV - PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

8 - 9

Notifications

Immunisation and Vaccination

## SECTION V - SANITARY INSPECTION

10 - 12

Visits by Public Health Inspectors

Verminous Premises

Public Health Acts

Informal Action

Statutory Notices

Noise Abatement

Clean Air

## SECTION VI - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

13 - 25

Water Supply

Public Swimming Baths

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Sanitary Accommodation

Slum Clearance and the Improvement of Houses

Houses in Multiple Occupation

Council Housing

Caravan Sites

Rodent Control

Pet Shops and Animal Boarding Establishments

Knacker's Yard

Hairdressers and Barbers

Factories

Offices and Shops

## SECTION VII - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

26 - 29

### ANNEX

Prescribed particulars on the  
administration of the Factories  
Act, 1961.

30 - 31

Prescribed particulars in the Annual  
Report to the Ministry of Labour on  
the administration of the Offices,  
Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.



GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

(1) GENERAL STATISTICS

Population, Census 1951	11,433
Population, Census 1961	16,236
Population (estimated mid-year 1964)	19,100
Area (acres of District)	3,489
Number of inhabited houses (per Valuation List 31.12.64)	6,326
Rateable Value of Area (31.12.64.)	£842,415
Product of Penny Rate 1964/65 (probable)	£3,485

Comparative Statistics - 1934 to 1964

	YEAR		
	1934	1963	1964
Population	10,240	18,310	19,100
Rateable Value	£56,463	£804,735	£842,415
Product of Penny Rate	£212	£3,305	£3,485
Number of Inhabited houses	3,084	6,114	6,326

(2) VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	241	209	450
Illegitimate	15	10	25
All	256	219	475

* Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	24.9
* Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability factor 0.84)	20.9
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total births	5.3

<u>Stillbirths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	4	4	8
<u>Total Live and Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	260	223	483

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths 16.6.

⌘

\* see page 2.

<u>Infant Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	7	1	8

#### Infant Mortality Rates

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births	16.6
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	15.5
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	40.0

Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks) per 1,000 total live births	12.6
---	------

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week) per 1,000 total live births	10.5
--	------

Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	26.9
--	------

#### Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Maternal deaths	1
-----------------	---

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	2.07
--	------

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
All causes	93	94	177
Death Rate per 1,000 population			9.3
* Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability factor 1.23)			11.4

#### \* NOTE

The corrected birth and death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. The corrected rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales, and the corresponding adjusted rates for any other area.

#### \* NOTE

The crude birth rate is the second highest of any district in the County.

Causes of Death

As will be seen from the following table the principal causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulation which caused approximately 47% of the deaths. Deaths from malignant conditions (33) accounted for approximately 19% of the total and those from pneumonia and bronchitis (30) for approximately 17%

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	-	2
2. Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
3. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1	3
4. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	2	11
5. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4	4
6. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
7. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	4	13
8. Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	10	17
9. Coronary disease, angina	24	20	44
10. Hypertension with heart disease	2	2	4
11. Other heart disease	6	8	14
12. Other circulatory disease	2	3	5
13. Influenza	-	2	2
14. Pneumonia	9	12	21
15. Bronchitis	4	5	9
16. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
17. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
18. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1	1
19. Congenital malformations	3	1	4
20. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	2	10
21. Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
22. All other accidents	2	4	6
	<u>93</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>177</u>



## COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM

## POPULATIONS, BIRTH AND MORTALITY RATES FOR THE YEAR 1964

District	Population Census 1961	Reg. Gen. Estimated Population Mid-1964	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 Live and Still-Births
<b>URBAN</b>								
Aylesbury	27,923	32,510	24.2 (787)	7.6 (247)	0.031 (1)	11.4 (9)	10.2 (8)	-
Beaconsfield	10,013	11,000	15.4 (169)	8.5 (94)	0.091 (1)	5.9 (1)	5.9 (1)	5.81
Bletchley	17,095	20,610	24.2 (499)	7.0 (145)	-	6.0 (3)	4.0 (2)	-
Buckingham	4,379	4,740	17.7 (84)	8.0 (38)	-	11.9 (1)	-	-
Chesham	16,297	19,100	24.9 (475)	9.3 (177)	0.105 (2)	16.8 (8)	12.6 (6)	2.07
Eton	3,894	5,290	13.2 (70)	4.9 (26)	-	14.3 (1)	14.3 (1)	-
High Wycombe	49,981	54,060	22.5 (1,218)	8.2 (442)	0.055 (3)	17.2 (21)	14.0 (17)	-
Linslade	4,139	4,470	25.1 (112)	13.0 (58)	-	8.9 (1)	8.9 (1)	8.62
Marlow	8,724	9,630	21.2 (204)	9.1 (88)	0.208 (2)	44.1 (9)	24.5 (5)	-
Newport Pagnell	4,743	5,260	21.3 (112)	19.6 (103)	-	17.9 (2)	17.9 (2)	-
Slough	80,781	84,900	21.5 (1,828)	7.6 (645)	0.047 (4)	19.1 (35)	14.2 (26)	-
Wolverton	13,113	13,040	16.5 (215)	11.7 (153)	-	18.6 (4)	14.0 (3)	-
<b>TOTAL URBAN</b>	241,082	264,610	21.8 (5,773)	8.4 (2,216)	0.049 (13)	16.5 (95)	12.5 (72)	0.51
<b>RURAL</b>								
Amersham	56,005	60,150	19.2 (1,156)	8.9 (529)	0.035 (2)	13.0 (15)	11.2 (15)	-
Aylesbury	33,336	34,680	19.7 (683)	10.0 (547)	0.058 (3)	16.1 (11)	14.2 (9)	-
Buckingham	8,497	9,530	15.5 (148)	8.3 (73)	-	-	-	-
Eton	66,932	70,110	16.7 (1,173)	7.7 (539)	-	17.1 (70)	15.3 (18)	0.84
Newport Pagnell	14,107	14,380	16.5 (237)	24.4 (207)	0.076 (3)	29.5 (7)	16.9 (4)	-
Wing	9,083	9,380	18.7 (119)	10.8 (101)	-	28.6 (5)	14.1 (1)	-
Winslow	7,959	8,560	16.0 (131)	14.5 (111)	0.09 (1)	44.8 (6)	44.9 (1)	-
Wycombe	51,252	56,810	20.4 (1,157)	8.4 (478)	0.070 (4)	16.4 (19)	12.1 (14)	-
<b>TOTAL RURAL</b>	247,151	263,400	18.5 (4,863)	9.1 (2,401)	0.042 (11)	17.1 (83)	14.8 (67)	0.20
<b>TOTAL COUNTY</b>	488,233	528,010	20.1 (10,636)	8.7 (4,617)	0.045 (24)	16.7 (178)	14.2 (119)	0.37
<b>ENGLAND and WALES</b>	46,071,604	47,401,300	18.4	11.3	-	20.0	-	-

NOTE: Remaining figures for England and Wales not yet available - will be included in annual report.

In view of the small numbers on which some of the rates quoted are based, the actual numbers are given in parenthesis for the purpose of clearer comparison.

## S E C T I O N    I I

### HEALTH SERVICES

#### (1) HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Chesham Urban District is situated within the area of the High Wycombe & District Management Committee of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

Hospitals available for the District are as follows:-

Tuberculosis	- Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium, Peppard Common
General	- Chesham Cottage Hospital
	- Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury
	- Amersham General Hospital
	- Tindal General Hospital, Aylesbury
	- Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital, Aylesbury
	- War Memorial Hospital, High Wycombe
	- Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Hospital
Infectious Diseases	- Aylesbury Isolation Hospital
Mental	- St. John's Hospital, Stone
Maternity	- The Stone Maternity Home, Chalfont St. Giles

#### (2) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratories situated at Oxford and Luton.

Samples of water for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst for Southwark Borough Council.

The Public Analyst for Buckinghamshire is Mr. Eric Voelcker, A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C., Analytical Laboratory, Stuart House, 1, Tudor Street, London, E.C.4.

#### (3) AMBULANCE SERVICE

This service is provided by the County Council, the Chesham Urban District being covered by the sub-station at Amersham from 7.0 a.m. - 11.0 p.m. The main station at High Wycombe provides 24-hour cover to the whole of the area.

#### (4) MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

This service is provided by the undermentioned nurses:-

<u>Districts Served</u>	<u>Name, Address and Qualifications of Nurses</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
Chesham (except The Vale)	Miss M.E. Marston, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.	Chesham 2319
	Miss P. Sigsworth, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. 29 and 25 Penn Avenue, Chesham.	Chesham 2842
	*Mrs. G. Hoskins, S.R.N., S.C.M., <sup>‡</sup> Q.N. 33 Woodside Avenue, Chesham Bois.	
	Mrs. S. Ginger, S.R.N., S.C.M., St. Ives, 199 Chartridge Lane, Chesham.	Chesham 5126

\* Part-time staff

<sup>‡</sup> Not practising as a midwife

(5) CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

		<u>Session</u>	<u>M.O. attends</u>
Chesham	School Clinic Germain Street	2.0 p.m. each Wednesday and Friday	2nd and 4th Friday each months
"	Community Hall, Windsor Road	2nd and 4th Monday 2.0 p.m. each month	Each session

(6) CHESHAM OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

The Temperance Hall, leased from the Chesham Council and opened in January 1961 has continued to be the centre of activity by this Committee. The Hall is open daily between 10.0 a.m. and 4 p.m. for the use of the elderly people of the town and a wide range of amenities and services are provided. Full details of these services are given in a booklet recently published by the Committee and distributed to interested persons throughout the town.

Average attendances at the Hall have increased.

Appreciation must be recorded to the hard work of the many voluntary workers and to the generous support of local organisations which make it possible for an increasing number of elderly people of the district to be provided with comfort, companionship and interests not previously available.

(7) MEDICAL COMFORTS DEPOT

The Medical Comforts Depot situated at the rear of 122, High Street, Chesham, and organised by the Chesham Nursing Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, has again rendered valuable service to the sick not only in this area but throughout the county.

Close liaison is maintained with General Practitioners, Hospital and County Almoners, Health Visitors and District Nurse/Midwives. During the year the depot sent out 4,116 articles, helping over 610 invalids and 261 maternity cases nursed at home.

An average of 50 new invalids and 21 maternity cases seek help from the depot each month. During the summer 130 invalid chairs were out on loan. More of the older type of wheel chair were replaced by modern light-weight chairs during the year.

Miss M.F. Wheeler, the Officer in charge of the depot, thanks all who by their gifts, work and interest make it possible for the depot to run.



S E C T I O N    I I I

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948-1951

Section 47

Under this Section when persons (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention, the local authority may apply to a court of summary jurisdiction for an Order to remove the person to a suitable place.

Section 50

Under this Section the District Council has the duty to arrange for the burial of any person who has died in their area, if no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body are being made.

It was not necessary to take any action under either of these Sections during the year.

## SECTION IV

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE(1) NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The table below gives the cases of infectious disease notified during the year:-

DISEASE	Cases Notified	
	1963	1964
Measles	274	78
Tuberculosis	8	6*
Sonne Dysentery	1	-
Scarlet Fever	-	1

\* The six cases notified were of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

(2) IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION(a) Smallpox Vaccination

The number of children vaccinated against Smallpox in the various age groups is shewn in the table below:-

	0-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	1 year	2-4 years	5-14 years	15 and over	TOTAL
Smallpox Vaccination	21	12	10	8	193	21	7	-	272
Re- Vaccination					2	3	3		8
	21	12	10	8	195	24	10	-	280

The Ministry of Health now recommends that smallpox vaccination in children be carried out between the ages of one and two years. The incidence of side-effects from vaccination is known to be less in this age group.

(b) Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus Immunisation

The use of Triple Antigens - containing pertussis, diphtheria and tetanus prophylactic - continued during 1964. The following table gives the numbers of children who were protected against these diseases.

Year of Birth	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	15 and over	TOTAL
Primary Diph.				1														1
Primary Diph. /Tet.		1	1	1	1	3	6		2									15
Primary Diph/ WC.																		-
Primary Triple	169	275	60	8	2	2												516
Primary Quadrilin	1																	1
Reinforcing Injection		29	50	9	22	191	63	11	1		2	3		2				383
Primary WC					1													1
Primary Tetanus					2	3	4	3		1						1	3	17
	170	305	111	19	28	199	73	14	3	1	2	3		2		1	3	934

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis with Sabin oral vaccine is now given at monthly intervals starting at the age of six months, followed by immunisation with triple antigen (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and tetanus) which usually starts at the 9th or 10th month.

(c) Poliomyelitis

No separate figures for Poliomyelitis vaccination are available for the district.

(d) Tuberculosis

B.C.G. Vaccination at the age of 13 years is provided by the School Health Service. In the Amersham and Chesham Division it is pleasing to note that once again there was an excellent response from parents.

The B.C.G. vaccination is preceded by a tuberculin test which indicates whether the individual has in the past been infected with tuberculosis. Most of these infections are very mild and cause no definite symptoms. The number reacting to this test is a measure of the past exposure of these children to Tuberculosis, and in this context it is interesting to note the following figures:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tuberculin Positive</u>
1957	19.2%
1958	14.1%
1959	13.0%
1960	10.5%
1961	6.5%
1962	4.4%
1963	4.0%
1964	6.0%

Those children who react strongly to this test are later seen by the County Chest Physician for further investigation.

# SECTION V

## SANITARY INSPECTION

### (1) VISITS BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

<u>Housing Inspections:</u>	1964
Number of houses inspected under Public Health Acts ... ..	75
Revisits made to houses under Public Health Acts ... ..	261
Number of houses inspected under Housing Acts ... ..	16
Revisits made to houses under Housing Acts ... ..	58
Visits to houses under Rent Acts ... ..	-
Miscellaneous visits to houses ... ..	28
Visits to houses in connection with Improvement Grants ...	146
Improvement Area surveys ... ..	330

#### Inspection of Food and Food Premises.

Visits to Butchers' Shops ... ..	67
Visits to Fish Shops ... ..	10
Visits to Grocers' Shops ... ..	148
Visits to Ice-Cream Premises .. ..	16
Visits to Food Manufacturing Premises ... ..	19
Visits to Catering Premises ... ..	127
Visits to Bakehouses and Confectioners ... ..	17
Visits to Dairies ... ..	22

#### Infectious Disease, Rodent and Vermin Control:

Number of houses inspected for vermin ... ..	7
Number of rooms disinfested ... ..	3
Revisits ... ..	-
Visits where Infectious Disease has occurred ... ..	49
Number of rooms disinfested ... ..	-
Visits in connection with Rodent Control .. ..	67

#### Other Visits:-

Visits to Knacker's Yard ... ..	8
Visits and inspections of Factories ... ..	15
Visits in connection with Water Supply ... ..	105
Interviews ... ..	344
Miscellaneous Visits ... ..	446
Visits & Observations re Atmospheric Pollution .. ..	50
Visits to Schools ... ..	5
Visits in connection with Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act Registrations ... ..	29

#### Complaints:

Complaints reported to the Public Health Department ... ..	122
(excluding complaints of rats and mice which are dealt with elsewhere in the Report)	

### (2) VERMINOUS PREMISES

As in previous years, numerous requests were made to the Public Health Department for help in dealing with insect pests. Suitable advice was given in every case and where necessary, treatments were carried out by the staff of the Department.

No reports of bed bugs or fleas were received but infestations of a variety of other insect pests were investigated and treated at 34 separate premises during the year. This work included the destruction of 14 wasps' nests.

Insecticides containing pyrethrum were the most widely used in this work.



(3) PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1936 & 1961. ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES BY INFORMAL ACTION

As a result of the investigation of complaints and during the course of routine work a wide variety of sanitary defects and nuisances are met and dealt with under the provisions of the Public Health Acts. In over 90% of the cases remedies are effected following written or verbal requests made by the Public Health Inspectors, without resort to statutory procedure.

The defects for which this informal action was taken during 1964 are summarised below:-

DEFECT	NUMBER OF CASES
Leaking roofs	15
Defective roof surface water drainage	13
Dampness in dwellings	16
Defective chimney stacks	1
Defective floors, doors and windows	9
Defective brickwork	2
Defective sanitary accommodation	12
Defective drainage systems	13
Contaminated well water	1
Accumulation of refuse	5
Defective sink and gully	2
Total	89

(4) PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1936 & 1961 - STATUTORY NOTICES

If within a reasonable time the informal action described above fails to secure the remedy of sanitary defects or the abatement of nuisances, the matters concerned are reported to the Council's Health Committee, which authorises statutory notices to be served. The following is a statement of the Statutory Notices served and complied with during the year.

ACT AND SECTION	DETAILS	NUMBER OF NOTICES			
		Outstanding on 1.1.64.	Served	Complied with	Outstanding on 31.12.64.
Section 39 of 1936 Act	Defective drainage systems	2	1	3	-
Section 45 of 1936 Act	Defective water closets	2	2	4	-
Section 93 of 1936 Act	Abatement of nuisances	2	3	5	-
Section 17 of 1961 Act	Stopped-up drainage systems	-	3	3	-
	TOTALS	6	9	15	-

Work carried out by the Council

In three cases it was necessary for the Council to carry out work in default of, or on behalf of, the owner or occupier as follows:

Public Health Act 1961, Section 17. Unstopping surface water drain at business premises at a cost of £2.12s.11d.

Public Health Act 1961, Section 17. Unstopping drain from W.C. common to two houses. £14.17s. -d.

In addition it was necessary to utilise the Council's powers on several occasions to clear stoppages in drainage systems common to groups of old houses. Under the Public Health Act 1936, these systems are "public sewers" which the Council has a duty to "maintain, cleanse and empty", although the costs of any works of repair or renewal are recoverable. The work has been carried out by labour from the Surveyor's Department.

(5) NOISE ABATEMENT

The Noise Abatement Act, 1960 has continued to be a useful measure in the control of noise and vibration. During the year seven new complaints of noise or vibration were made to the Department by members of the public: the principal cause of complaint was noise or vibration from factories in the vicinity of dwellings. All the alleged nuisances were fully investigated by the Public Health Inspectors but in only two cases was it considered that official action was justified. Informal action by the Council's officers resulted in the abatement of these two nuisances.

A marked reduction in noise was also recorded at a factory where modifications were carried out to a cyclone extractor in response to an informal notice sent to the occupiers in 1963

(6) CLEAN AIR

The Clean Air Act, 1956 makes provision for abating the pollution of the air. Occasions for the use of its powers in this District arise mainly as a result of the intermittent emission of excessive smoke from factory chimneys or from the creation of nuisances due to the burning of trade waste.

A warning letter was sent to the occupiers of a sawmill after observations made by a Public Health Inspector had indicated that dark smoke was being emitted from the boiler chimney for periods in excess of those permitted. The management of a woodware factory were also asked to reduce the smoke and smuts from a boiler chimney on their premises after numerous complaints had been received from nearby residents. Wood waste is the principal fuel used in both boilers.

Nuisances due to the burning of trade refuse were abated in two instances following informal notices.

SECTION VI

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(1) WATER SUPPLY

(a) Public Water Supplies

Main water in the Chesham Urban District is supplied by the Council's Undertaking and the Undertaking of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company and amalgamated companies. This Council's undertaking supplies about 82% of the total dwellings within the district in that part which may be conveniently described as the area of the Urban District prior to the extension of boundaries in 1934.

During the year under review the Undertakings have supplied main water that has been satisfactory both in regard to quantity and quality.

Treatment and Plumbo-Solvency of Water

The main supplies receive no treatment other than chlorination and the waters are not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

Distribution of Main Supplies

The following table shows the number of dwellings and estimated population supplied from public water mains:-

	No. of Houses	No. of Caravans	Estimated Population
Internal Piped supply	6,287	-	18,870
External supply (standpipes)	16	52	170

It is interesting to note the marked improvement which has been recorded in the figures shown in the above Table over the last 10 years. In 1954, 123 dwellings were dependent upon a supply of main water from an external source, such as a common standpipe in an open yard. By 1964 an internal supply had been piped into 70 of these houses; 34 of the houses had been demolished or closed and 3 were no longer in use as dwellings.

Adequate public water supplies were available for all parts of the District in which new dwellings were erected during the year.

Sampling of Public Water Supplies

During the year samples have been taken from the piped water supplied by the Chesham Urban District Council and the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

Forty-seven samples, thirty-five for bacteriological examination and twelve for chemical analysis, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory or Public Analyst. All the samples were reported to be of high chemical and bacteriological purity, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.



Chemical Analyses

The following are copies of the Analyst's Reports on the examination of samples from four different sources of mains water:-

<u>Reference No.</u>	<u>Sample collected from</u>	<u>Water Undertaking</u>
M.15.	12 Sunnymede Avenue, Chesham.	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co. (Berkhamsted Main)
M.77.	55 Cresswell Road, Chesham.	"- (Amersham Main)
M.99.	"Little Orchard" Pednor Road, Chesham.	"- (Rickmansworth Main)
M.98.	4 Springfield Close, Chesham.	Chesham U.D.C.

<u>Sample Ref. No.</u>	<u>M.15.</u>	<u>M.77</u>	<u>M.99.</u>	<u>M.98.</u>
Appearance	All clear and colourless.			
Reaction (pH)	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.0
	Parts per million			
Free Chlorine	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total Solids	386	344	340	330
Loss on Ignition	-	-	-	-
Chlorine in Chlorides	19	18	13	11
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.005	Nil	Nil	Nil
Nitrate Nitrogen	4.0	2.1	3.0	2.5
Nitrate Nitrogen	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3 hrs. @ 98°F.)	1.0	Nil	0.1	0.
Hardness, Temporary	225	240	243	238
Permanent	37	22	24	30
Total	262	262	267	268
Metals - Lead, Copper, Zinc.	Not found.			

(b) Private Well Supplies

Twenty-three dwellings and three business premises in the district are dependent upon a supply of water from wells, these being mostly deep bore wells. They are known to yield an adequate supply all the year round, and the water is of high bacteriological quality. Sampling of the water is carried out from time to time and given below is a table showing the number of samples collected in 1964, together with the results of bacteriological examinations carried out:-

SAMPLING OF WELL WATER SUPPLIES				
	Number of Samples	Result of Examination		
		Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory
Bacteriological Examination	27	20	3	4

The unsatisfactory samples were from a bore well supplying a house and factory in Moor Road. Investigations showed that surface water was polluting the supply through a faulty pump chamber. Satisfactory results were again obtained from the supply after remedial works had been carried out. The samples yielding 'suspicious' results were from a well at a factory in Waterside and arrangements have been made for an alternative supply to be used for drinking purposes.



## (2) PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

The only public swimming bath within the Urban District is owned by the Council. Extensions and improvements which were completed and in use at the beginning of June have completely changed the pool. The plunge has been deepened to give a range in depth from 3' to 7', the surround to the pool enlarged and new covered changing cubicles, showers, toilets and entrance hall have been provided.

The Council have programmed further improvements for 1965/66 to provide a sunbathing area, spectators' seating and toilets and a snack bar on the roof of the dressing accommodation.

The Bath is filled with untreated water from a well on the site. The filtration and chlorination plant installed in 1961 ensures that the water is attractive and safe for bathing at all times. Eight samples of water from the bath were examined bacteriologically and found to be satisfactory.

The 1964 season at the Bath was most successful.

### Paddling Pool - Lowndes Park

The pool has again been painted and by popular demand hours of opening extended to include a period on Sundays. It is filled from the town's mains and chlorinated and changed as necessary.

## (3) SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewerage of the town is on a separate system, the foul sewers discharging to the Council's Sewage Disposal Works in Latimer Road. This Works also receives sewage from the Chesham Bois area of the Amersham Rural District.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government have approved in principle the proposals for the reconstruction of the Council's Sewage Disposal Works, and the Consulting Engineers are preparing Contract Documents, with a view to work commencing towards the end of 1965.

### Parts of the District not served by public sewer

A survey carried out in 1953/54 showed that approximately 450 dwellings were situated in areas not served by a public sewer. This number has since increased with the building of further houses in Berkeley Avenue, Botley Road and other outlying parts of the town. Most of the dwellings drain to either a sealed cesspool or to a septic tank and soakaway into chalk.

### Cesspools

Since 1954 sealed cesspools only have been permitted for new dwellings. These must have a capacity of not less than 4,000 gallons, a capacity which is adequate for the average household for at least two months. A typical cesspool in the Chesham district consists of a circular pit 13 feet deep below the level of the inlet, 8 feet in diameter, constructed in 9" brickwork and cement rendered internally with a concrete base and cover.

### Cesspool emptying

The Council's machine emptied 331 cesspools during 1964, 302 being in the Urban District whilst the remainder were in the Tring area.

#### (4) REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Household and certain Trade refuse is collected within the Urban District and disposed of by burning at the Council's Refuse Destructor in Latimer Road

Quantities continue to increase, at a greater rate than population, due to modern methods of packaging and the increased amount of paper in use.

Some loads have had to be diverted to a controlled tip at Gerrards Cross, although these have been kept to a minimum.

#### Provision of Dustbins

On the 31st March, 1964, the Council terminated the scheme operated since 1950 under which the Authority, in lieu of requiring owners and occupiers of buildings to do so undertook to provide and maintain such dustbins as might be necessary. As from this date the responsibility for providing dustbins reverted to the owners and occupiers of buildings concerned. In future, in the absence of any clear evidence that responsibility for the provision of a dustbin rests on some other person, Council Notices requiring the provision of dustbins will be served upon occupiers.

#### (5) SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

During the year the Public Health Inspectors carried out a survey to collect information on the provision of sanitary accommodation at dwelling houses in the District. The object was to ascertain the number and location of houses still without a water closet or sharing a water closet. The last occasion when a survey was completed to collect information on these matters was in 1954.

The following Table summarises the information obtained and includes the 1954 figures for comparison; it indicates that a notable improvement has taken place in this particular aspect of the sanitary circumstances of the District over the last decade.

Year	1954	1964
	No. of Houses	No. of Houses
* (a) Water closet shared	201	57
* (b) Pail, earth or chemical closets	52	12

#### Notes:

- \* (a) Separate dwelling houses sharing use of a water closet.  
(The table does not show the total number of separate families or households sharing a W.C. as this information is not readily available, neither is the sharing of a W.C. at a combined shop and dwelling house included).
- \* (b) Dwelling houses dependent upon pail, earth or chemical closets.
- (c) Caravans are not included in the Table.
- (d) Houses no longer used as dwellings are excluded from the 1964 figures.

The survey revealed that of the 201 houses sharing a W.C. in 1954, 85 had by 1964 gained the exclusive use of a W.C. 47 of the 201 houses had been demolished or closed and the remainder were no longer in use as dwellings.

Of the 52 houses which were dependent upon pail, earth or chemical closets in 1954, 24 had a water closet in 1964. 16 of the original 52 houses had been demolished or had ceased to be used as dwellings.

(6) SLUM CLEARANCE:  
THE IMPROVEMENT OF OLD HOUSES

Clearance Areas

The four houses in Clearance Area No. 4 in Waterside were demolished during the year and a scheme of private development on the land has been approved. Demolition of the five houses in Clearance Area No. 5 in Whitehill was also completed during the year, the site having been acquired by the Bucks. County Council in connection with a road improvement scheme.

No action to declare further clearance areas was taken during the year.

Individual Unfit Houses

Four unfit houses subject to Demolition Orders and two subject to Closing Orders were demolished during the year.

Progress

Action taken by the Council over the past ten years has removed the worst of the sub-standard houses in the District. There remain approximately 40 houses which may be regarded as unfit for human habitation by the standards now applied. Many of these houses are worth preserving because of some special merit and will undoubtedly be improved by owners as circumstances permit. Other groups of the houses are of such a type or situation that they will be more appropriately dealt with under schemes of urban renewal rather than by clearance area procedure. However, future housing policy will be increasingly concerned with the preservation of the several hundred local houses which, although structurally sound, and legally fit, lack modern amenities.

Whilst considerable encouragement has been given to house owners to improve their property in recent years, the installation of modern amenities in improvable old houses has made very slow progress, both nationally and locally. It was suggested by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 1962 that local authorities could stimulate the modernisation of houses by tackling the problem area by area or street by street. This policy had then to rely mainly upon the voluntary co-operation of owners but in 1964 a new Housing Act introduced compulsory powers. This Act enables local authorities to compel owners to improve tenanted dwellings in improvement areas defined by them or individual houses elsewhere at the request of the tenant.

Area Improvement

As a preliminary to implementing a policy of area improvement in Chesham, the Public Health Inspectors completed surveys of two typical areas in 1964, namely Sunnyside Road and an area consisting of Church Street, Pednor Mead End, Wey Lane, Germain Street and King Street. The property in Sunnyside Road is mainly of terraced cottage construction built at the end of the last century. The Church Street area on the other hand is mainly of 17th and 18th century construction consisting originally of a number of town houses interspersed with workers' cottages.

The primary object of the surveys was to ascertain how many of the houses lacked one or more of the five "standard amenities", namely, hot water, a fixed bath or shower, a wash-hand basin, an inside lavatory and a proper food store. As each house was visited, however, additional information on the general condition, occupation, tenancy and rent was collected.

In the Sunnyside Road area 90 houses were surveyed and of these 49 or 54% lacked one or more of the standard amenities. 21 of the houses lacking amenities were owner-occupied and 28 tenanted. 54 or 31% of the 175 houses surveyed in the Church Street area were found to lack one or more of the standard amenities. 47 of these houses were tenanted and only 7 owner-occupied.



The procedure for the compulsory improvement of houses under the Housing Act 1964 is complicated and the provisions made for safe-guarding the rights of tenants may extend the action over periods of five years or more. Application of the powers to the two areas surveyed has not yet been considered in detail, but in the meantime fresh efforts are being made to encourage voluntary improvement.

#### CENSUS 1961: Household Arrangements

Further evidence of the extent to which amenities are lacking in local houses is given in the report on the 1961 Census which was published in 1964. In this census an attempt was made to estimate the number of dwellings which lacked various household arrangements viz. a cold water tap, a hot water tap, a fixed bath and a water closet.

The Census schedule contained the following notes on the different household arrangements.

"Cold water tap." This refers to a tap within the building. It does not include a tap in an open yard or a public standpipe. If only the latter are available, the answer 'None' should be given.

"Hot water tap." This means water piped to any form of heating appliance which will allow hot water to be drawn from a tap within the building, e.g. a boiler, tank with immersion heater, geyser, or sink heater.

"Fixed bath." This means a bath permanently installed with a waste pipe leading outside the building. It does not matter for this purpose whether there is water piped to it or whether the room where it is installed is used only as a bathroom or not.

"Water Closet." This means any water closet emptying into a main sewer, septic tank or cesspool. It does not include a chemical closet or earth closet. It must be within the building or attached to it.

The Report gives the following classification of Chesham dwellings by the availability of the household arrangements.

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per cent</u>
Total dwellings with an occupier present	5,435	-
Dwellings occupied by households all lacking:-		
<u>a cold water tap</u> ...   ...   ...   ...	33	0.61%
<u>a hot water tap</u> ...   ...   ...   ...	1,108	20.39%
<u>a fixed bath</u> ...   ...   ...   ...	864	15.9%
<u>a water closet</u> ...   ...   ...   ...	156	2.87%

The number of dwellings occupied by households at least one of which had the exclusive use of all four arrangements was 4,179 or 76.89%

#### (7) GRANTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF OLD HOUSES

The Council has continued to make Discretionary and Standard Grants for the improvement of old houses and the Public Health Department is responsible for the considerable amount of administrative work attached to the operation of these schemes. The Public Health Inspectors made 146 visits during the year to advise applicants on proposals or inspect works in progress.

The tables below show the number of applications received and approved, together with the total amount of grants made for the years 1954-1964 inclusive. In the year under review, a total of 20 applications for both types of grant was received as against 30 in the previous year.

STANDARD GRANTS

	1959/61	1962	1963	1964	TOTAL
Number of applications received	19	6	16	10	51
Number of applications approved	17	6	16	10	49
Number of applications withdrawn	2	-	-	1	3
Total grants payable (maximum)	£2,240	£800	£2,220	£1,270	£6,530
Number of schemes completed	13	5	10	10	38

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

	1954/1962	1963	1964	TOTAL
Number of Applications	150	14	10	174
Number of Grants approved	143	14	10	167
Total cost of approved improvements	£64,515	£7,371	£6,415	£78,301
Total amount of Grants approved	£28,420	£3,601	£3,159	£35,180
Number of schemes completed	116	16	9	141
Number of applications withdrawn after approval	4	-	-	4

(8) HOUSING REPAIRS

The number of houses at which repairs were carried out following informal action under the Public Health and Housing Acts was twenty-nine. Formal action under the Public Health Act resulted in the repair of seven other houses by the owners and one by the Council in default. Action was in most cases the result of complaints made to the Public Health Department by the occupiers concerned. No applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957 were received during the year.

No routine house-to-house inspection of dwelling houses has been carried out during the year.

(9) HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Recent legislation has given Local Authorities extensive powers to control the operation of houses which are let in lodgings or which are occupied by members of more than one family.

The number of houses in multiple occupation in Chesham is estimated at nineteen.

Surveys of the houses, with particular attention being given to the adequacy of means of escape in case of fire, are planned for 1965, in co-operation with the County Fire Service Officers.

There are no registered common lodging houses in the district.

(10) COUNCIL HOUSING IN CHESHAM

During 1964 the Council rehoused 93 families, including 41 exchanges. Since 1946, Chesham Council have provided alternative housing accommodation for 2,225 families, and the following details of the number of new dwellings erected in the post-war period are of interest.

YEAR	Temporary Bungalows	Houses	Flats	O.A.P. Bungalows and Flatlets	COUNCIL TOTALS	HOUSES ERRECTED BY:	
						PRIVATE ENTERPRISE	HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS
1946/ 1950	35	186	36	-	257	85	-
1951/ 1955	-	233	86	40	359	229	10
1956/ 1960	-	126	129	-	255	109	22
1961/ 1963	-	42	20	37	99	656	-
1964	-	-	12	-	12	141	-
TOTALS	35	587	283	77	962	2,220	32

At the close of the year there were 38 dwellings under construction by the Council and 42 dwellings under private construction.

Housing Needs

The waiting list of applicants for Council accommodation, which is restricted to persons who reside or work in the town, numbered 522 in December 1964. This number compares with 400 applicants in the previous year. The 1964 figure includes 75 applications from elderly persons or couples.

(11) HOUSING FOR SPECIAL CLASSES - Elderly Persons Community Development, Deansway, Chesham.

This important example of co-operation between the County Council as Welfare Authority and Chesham Council as Housing Authority was completed in 1964. Mr. F.B. Pooley, F.R.I.B.A., the County Architect prepared a joint scheme of development comprising a County Residential Home, under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948, to accommodate 40 residents, together with ancillary services, in conjunction with a scheme of bungalow development for elderly persons for which Chesham Council is responsible. Details of this accommodation were given in the Report for 1963.

(12) CARAVAN SITES

Four Licenses under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, are in operation. All sites are occupied by single caravans only and the licenses are for limited periods. The conditions imposed by the Licenses, although based on the model standards are suitably modified to take account of the temporary nature of the sites.

Council's Caravan Site - Trapps Lane

The Council's Caravan Site, Trapps Lane, which accommodates 46 caravans, has been fully occupied throughout the year.

The amenities provided at the site include an electricity supply point to each caravan, concrete standings and carriageway, a car park, fire and water points and a children's play-ground. In addition there is an ablution block containing a communal laundry with gas operated water heaters and wash boilers, together with baths, water closets and wash-hand basins.



The rent for each standing is 26s. 6d. per week inclusive of all services, except electricity which is charged separately.

A comprehensive set of rules to secure the good management of the site forms part of the schedule to the licence granted to the occupiers of standings. A part-time warden is employed upon the site for general maintenance duties.

### 13. RODENT CONTROL

#### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Rodent Control activities have been maintained during the year. The numbers of infestations reported and treatments carried out were less than in the previous year. Nine informal notices were sent to occupiers of land or buildings requesting their action to deal with infestations of rats or mice.

Premises and land occupied by the Council have been regularly surveyed and treated where necessary.

#### Destruction of Rats in Sewers

Test baiting of approximately 10% of the manholes on the Council's sewerage system during 1964 revealed the reinfestation of sewers which had been free of rats for several years. The treatment of these infestations involved the lifting of covers to 40 manholes on at least four separate occasions, a task which made a heavy demand on the Council's limited resources of manual labour.

A summary of action taken during the year is given below:-

#### Rodent Control during 1964

	TYPE OF PROPERTY			
	Local Auth- ority	Dwelling houses	Agri- cult ural	All Other (including business)
No. of properties in District @ 31/3/64	26	5,965	45	1,058
<u>I. Inspections</u>				
Number of properties inspected as a result of:				
(a) Notification	2	81	1	18
(b) Survey under the Act	12	1,079	30	468
(c) Reinspections	17	10	44	5
Total Inspections	31	1,170	75	491
<u>II. Infestations</u>				
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:				
(a) Rats	5	68	3	33
(b) Mice	-	19	-	4
Total Infestations	5	87	3	37
<u>III Total Treatments (rats &amp; mice)</u>				
Number of infested properties treated (incl. re- treatments)	7	73	3	35
<u>IV Number of 'Block' Control Schemes carried out</u>	2			

(14) RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1961

The purpose of this Act is to ensure that rag, flock and other filling materials used in the manufacture of furniture, bedding, soft toys etc. are of a satisfactory standard of cleanliness. Where such articles are manufactured, the Act provides for registration of the premises. The premises of one upholsterer in Chesham are registered under the Act.

(15) PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

This Act regulates the conditions in which pet animals are kept pending sale. It provides for the licensing of premises from which pet animals are sold and empowers a Local Authority to make conditions regarding the housing and care of the pets.

A pet shop, the only one in the town, was established at new business premises in Chesham during 1964. The issue of a licence has been withheld by the Council until the applicant makes satisfactory arrangements for the display of the animals kept for sale.

(16) ANIMALS BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

This Act, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1964, provides for a system of licensing and inspection by local authorities of any establishment at which a business of providing accommodation for cats and dogs is carried on.

One licence has been in operation during the year in respect of premises accommodating 15 dogs and 10 cats. Satisfactory conditions have been maintained.

(17) KNACKER'S YARD

The Knacker's Yard situated at Broadview Farm has been licensed by the Council during the year, but few animals have been slaughtered there.

The licence does not authorise the slaughter of horses at the premises but the carcasses of 31 horses killed at farms or stables were brought to the Yard during the year.

(18) BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1957  
Registration of Hairdressers and Barbers

Occupiers of 25 premises at which the business of hairdresser or barber is carried on are registered under Section 52 of the Buckinghamshire County Council Act, 1957.

Byelaws as to hairdressers and barbers came into operation on the 1st October, 1958. These byelaws make provision for securing the cleanliness of premises, of equipment used and of persons working on the premises.

(19) THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The Council are responsible for enforcing certain provisions of the Factories Act relating to health, and annexed to this report are tables giving particulars of the visits made to factories by Public Health Inspectors and the cases in which defects were found.

Plans of new factories are examined in the Public Health Department and appropriate comments are passed to the Architects concerned with a view to ensuring that sanitary conveniences and other provisions as to health meet with the statutory requirements.



The principal industries in which local factories are engaged are indicated by the list below.

Factories with Power

Light Engineering	18
Woodware, joinery and sawmills	16
Motor vehicle repairs	10
Printers	6
Brushware	4
Food Manufacture and packing	4
Aircraft seats	4
Foundries	4
Injection moulding	3
Boot manufacturing	2
Instrument manufacturers	2
Shoe repairs	2
Other industries	22
	<hr/>
	97
	<hr/>

Factories (No Mechanical Power)

Stone mason	1
Packing and scrap sorting	2
	<hr/>
	3
	<hr/>
Building operations	5
	<hr/>

Outworkers

Under Section 133 of the Factories Act, 1961, the occupier of every factory employing outworkers in certain specified classes of work must send to the District Council during the months of February and August of each year a list showing all the outworkers employed by him during the previous six months. A table showing the persons employed as outworkers in the specified trades in Chesham is annexed to the report.

(20) OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

This long-awaited Act which makes provision for the safety, health and welfare of people employed in offices, shops and railway premises, came into operation during the year. On the 1st May registration of the premises was required and on the 1st August the premises were required to comply with the main provisions of the Act.

The Act enforces, for the first time, the provision of amenities in offices similar to those required in factories. At the same time the requirements affecting shops have been brought into line with those for offices.

The aspects of health, safety and welfare which are regulated by the Act are cleanliness; overcrowding; temperature; ventilation; lighting; sanitary conveniences; washing facilities; drinking water; accommodation for clothing; seating facilities; seats for sedentary workers; heating facilities; the condition of floors, passages and stairs; danger from machinery; noise and vibration; prohibition of heavy work by certain classes of employees; first aid facilities and fire precautions. Enforcement of the Act is shared between H.M. Factory Inspectors, the Local Authority, the Fire Authority and H.M. Inspectors of Mines and Quarries.

Regulations have been issued during the year defining the standards to be imposed for a number of these subjects and in addition considerable detailed guidance and information has been issued by the Ministry of Labour with a view to securing the uniform administration of the Act.

Section 60(1) of the Act requires local authorities to submit an annual report to the Minister of Labour on their proceedings under the Act. The

narrative part of the First Report covering the period 1st May to the 31st December is reproduced below and the prescribed particulars (mainly statistics) are given in the annexe. The report shows that by the end of the year 210 premises at which 1,288 persons were employed had registered with the Council.

## Annual Report of Local Authority to the Minister of Labour under Section 60 of the Act

### 1. Period of the Report

The period covered by the Report is from the 1st May to the 31st December, 1964. Whilst registration of premises began on the 1st May, the main provisions of the Act did not come into operation until 1st August.

### 2. Administration of the Act

The Council's Public Health Inspectors are responsible for administration of the Act and its functions under the Act.

Recognising the already considerable burden of duties carried by the Public Health Inspectors in the rapidly expanding town and in anticipation of the increased work resulting from the operation of the Act, the Council have authorised the establishment of additional public health inspectors to be increased from one to two. The new appointment was filled in May 1964.

### 3. Provisions for securing compliance with the operation of the Act

Mr. N.L. Ford, an officer appointed by the Ministry of Labour under Section 57 of the Act for securing that the duties of local authorities are carried out in a uniform manner, has addressed a number of meetings of public health inspectors in the area. The Council's inspectors have attended these meetings, which are considered of great value. In addition, the Council's inspectors have attended regular sessions of a study group of inspectors from neighbouring authorities. The complex provisions of the Act and the Regulations made thereunder have been discussed in detail with a view to resolving queries and agreeing on a common policy of enforcement.

### 4. Registration of Premises

During the period under review work has been concentrated upon securing the registration of all premises in which the authority is responsible for enforcing the Act.

Employers were required to register premises already in use between the 1st May and 31st July. At the beginning of July it was calculated that not more than 15% of the offices and shops in the town that were required to register with the authority had done so. The national publicity given to the requirements of the Act concerning registration had evidently not reached the majority of employers or if it had they chose to ignore their responsibilities. In the light of these circumstances a circular was sent to all the known offices and shops in the town drawing attention to the provisions requiring employers to register and enclosing the registration form (Form OSR 1). After some delay, due to the national postal strike, the letter was sent to 220 addresses.

Although the response to this letter was fairly good, it was obvious by mid-August that there were still a number of shops and offices within the scope of the Act which had not registered. A second letter was, therefore, circulated. Some employers still failed to register and arrangements were then made for a Public Health Inspector to visit the premises concerned and interview each employer. By these laborious processes the reluctant employers were gradually persuaded to send in the forms of registration. At the end of the year only a few registrations were outstanding. The defaulting employers have been given final warnings that the Council will prosecute if registration is not effected.

The experience suggests that if employers are as reluctant to comply with the main provisions of the Act as they have been with the simple formality of registration, local authorities face a difficult task of enforcement.

## 5. Accidents

As required by Section 48, two reports of accidents to employed persons have been received from occupiers of premises to which the Act applies. The first involved a cut thumb sustained whilst cutting meat in a butcher's shop and no investigations were considered necessary. In the second instance notification was received that a grocery shop worker had sustained a suspected hernia whilst lifting a side of bacon. Upon enquiry it was found that the person concerned had not been off work immediately but was waiting to be admitted to hospital for treatment.

## 6. Exemptions

There have been no applications for exemption from any employers. One hopes that this means that all premises in Chesham comply with the Act, and not that employers are still unaware of their obligations.

## 7. Prescribed Particulars

The Appendix to the Report contains the following tables, giving the prescribed particulars on the administration of the Act.

TABLE A - Registrations and General Inspections

TABLE B - Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to  
Registered Premises

TABLE C - Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises  
by Workplace

TABLE D - Exemptions

TABLE E - Prosecutions

TABLE F - Inspectors



SECTION VII

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(1) MILK

The Milk & Dairies Regulations

Since 1949, the duties of Local Authorities have been concerned mainly with the enforcement of provisions relating to the distribution of milk and its handling and treatment at premises other than dairy farms. The provisions with regard to the infection of milk with diseases communicable to man are also the responsibility of Local Authorities.

Four milk distributors and one dairy are registered in the Urban District. There are a small number of milk producers within the area including one producer/retailer.

Milk supplies are sampled regularly by Officers of the Bucks. County Council and tested for both compositional and bacteriological quality.

Tests to check the cleansing of milk bottles at the local dairy are arranged regularly by the Public Health Inspectors. During the year 66 washed milk bottles in 11 batches were submitted for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory. All but 12 of the bottles satisfied the tests. The unsatisfactory results were referred to the dairyman and after the bottle washing plant had been overhauled further tests proved satisfactory.

(2) CREAM

Nineteen samples of fresh cream were collected from shops and roundsmen during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. The Laboratory subjected the cream to the Methylene Blue test which indicates the extent of bacterial contamination and gives a guide to the keeping quality. There is no statutory bacteriological standard for cream but a Working Party of the Public Health Laboratory Service has recommended a provisional grading of creams subjected to the test. According to this interpretation three of the samples submitted were to be regarded as unsatisfactory. These samples came from a producer outside the District and the responsible local authority was notified of the results.

(3) ICE-CREAM

Ice-cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations

No ice-cream is manufactured in the district and the ice-cream sold from the shops is of the pre-packed variety supplied by large firms distributing on a national scale. Following recent developments in the industry a number of vehicles trading in the District have been equipped to supply soft ice-cream from continuous freezers.

Two samples of ice-cream were collected from shops and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. The grading of the samples was satisfactory.

(4) LIQUID EGG

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963.

These Regulations which came into operation on the 1st January, 1964, require the pasteurisation of liquid egg to be used in food intended for sale for human consumption, other than egg broken out on the food manufacturer's premises and used within 24 hours. The Regulations prescribe the method of pasteurisation and the test to be satisfied. Enforcement is the responsibility of local authorities.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the District.

(5) NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES BY TYPES

General Grocery and Greengrocery Shops	...	...	...	...	47
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	9
Wet Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	2
Fish Frying Premises	...	...	...	...	3
Bakers	...	...	...	...	3
Sweet Shops	...	...	...	...	12
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	..	...	...	...	7
Food Manufacturing premises	...	...	...	...	2
Dairies	...	...	...	...	1
Factory and Shop Canteens	...	...	...	...	9
School Kitchens...	...	...	...	...	5
School Dining Centres	..	...	...	...	7
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	22
Food Warehouses	...	...	...	...	2
Clubs and Public Halls	.	...	...	...	<u>11</u>
					<u>142</u>

NOTE: Premises at which more than one type of business is carried on are counted once only.

(6) REGISTRATION OF PREMISES USED FOR THE MANUFACTURE, STORAGE OR SALE OF FOOD UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Purpose for which Registered	Premises on Register 1963	Added to Register 1964	Removed from Register 1964	Total on Register 31.12.64.	Visits in 1964
Sale and Storage of ice-cream	57	1	1	57	16
Manufacture of ice-cream	4	-	2	2	-
Manufacture of Preserved Food etc.	19	1	1	19	39
Fish Frying	4	-	-	4	8
TOTALS	84	2	4	82	63

(7) SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Since September 1959 no slaughtering has taken place in Chesham. The few local butchers wishing to buy meat "on the hoof" now make use of the slaughtering facilities available at a privately-operated slaughterhouse at Chalfont St. Giles.

Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933 to 1954

The following details are extracted from the Register of Slaughtermen:-

Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1963	-	5
Applications for Licences considered during 1964	-	0
Applications for Renewals considered during 1964	-	4
Number of Slaughtermen removed from Register (no applications for renewal of licences)	-	1
Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1964	-	4

(8) FOOD HYGIENE

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

Enforcement of the above Regulations in food shops and other places where food is manufactured or handled in businesses has continued to occupy a large proportion of the time available to the Public Health Inspectors. During the course of 426 visits made by the Inspectors, a considerable number of infringements of the Regulations were found and on 22 separate occasions written notices were served on the persons responsible.

In December 1964, Court proceedings were taken against the proprietors of local cafe for contravention of the Regulations. On the day of the alleged offences Public Health Inspectors visited the premises and found that the water heater to the wash-hand basin was not working in spite of several previous warnings made to the proprietors about the matter. A room used for food preparation and washing-up was dirty and the floor was defective: the W.C. compartment was not properly lighted. The Magistrates imposed total fines of £16 for the three offences.

The outbreak of typhoid fever in Aberdeen in May focused dramatic attention on food hygiene particularly the relationship between personal hygiene and the preparation of safe food. The opportunity was taken to circularise all local food businesses at this time enclosing a selection of the different posters on food hygiene subjects produced by the Ministry of Health. The main topic of the posters was the importance of hand washing and personal hygiene and the letter reminded traders to check that all wash-hand basins at their premises were in order with adequate supplies of hot and cold water, soap, nail brushes and clean towels.

#### Catering Hygiene - Examination of Utensil Swabs

During the year utensil swabbing was carried out in ten catering premises and the following items of equipment were tested:-

ITEMS	NUMBER OF SWABS
Cups	52
Forks	7
Plates	85
Glasses	2
Soup Plates	3
Beakers	5
Spoons	3
TOTAL	157

The bacteriological reports on the swabs are summarised below:-

BACTERIAL COUNT	ITEMS
Less than 100 colonies per utensil	71
100 to 200 colonies per utensil	18
200 to 300 "	14
300 to 500 "	10
500 to 1,000 "	17
Over 1,000 colonies per utensil	14
Uncountable	13
TOTAL	157

Seven of the swabs shewed evidence of faecal coli.

Although there is no bacteriological standard for crockery and utensils, it is generally accepted by Public Health Departments that to be regarded as satisfactory a utensil should have not more than 100 colonies. In every case where unsatisfactory results were obtained advice on the introduction of more efficient means of washing-up was given to the persons responsible for the businesses. In most premises because of the limited accommodation and facilities available, the use of a detergent having germicidal properties was recommended. When germicidal detergents were introduced into the washing-up water, repeat testing of crockery usually showed improved results.



### Certificates of Exemption

Certificates granting exemption from certain specified requirements of the Regulations have operated in respect of sixteen premises during the year. The Certificates exempt the occupiers of a number of small shops from the regulation requiring the provision of separate sinks and hot water for the washing of food and equipment. In granting the Certificates the Council had regard to the nature of the food handled, mainly fruit, vegetables or confectionery, and the limited equipment used upon the premises.

### (9) INSPECTION OF FOOD

A few complaints alleging the sale of unsound food (e.g. mouldy sausages and meat pies) have been investigated by the Public Health Inspectors but no formal proceedings were instituted. Reports of food stuffs containing extraneous material are passed to the Chief Inspector of the Bucks County Council for investigation.

Following the outbreak of typhoid fever at Aberdeen, the Ministry of Health circularised Medical Officers of Health advising them to arrange for the withdrawal of certain 6 lb. cans of corned beef and tongue which had been prepared at certain establishments in Argentina and Uruguay. The Public Health Inspectors on two separate occasions visited all food businesses and canteen kitchens likely to sell or use corned beef. Only one tin was found to be of the type where withdrawal was advised.

The following amounts of unsound food were condemned and voluntarily surrendered to the Department by traders during the year:-

	<u>Weight in lbs.</u>
Meat at retail shops	308
Cooked meat and meat products	137
Canned meats	220
Fish	10
Fruit and vegetables	456
Other Foods	340

### Disposal of Condemned Foodstuffs

Condemned foodstuffs are destroyed by incineration at the Council's plant in Latiner Road, Chesham.

R.E. ATKINSON  
Medical Officer of Health  
L.D. SATURLEY  
Chief Public Health Inspector.

ANNEX to Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1964  
for the Urban District of Chesham in the County of Buckingham

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of			Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices		
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (Factories with no mechanical power)	3	0	0	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (Factories with mechanical power)	0	0	0	0	0
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworker premises) (e.g. Building Society)	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	3	0	0	0	0



2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	1	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133		Section 134			
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing) Making Apparel) etc. Cleaning and Washing	15	-	-	-	-	-
Curtains and furniture hangings	34	1	-	-	-	-
Brush making	2	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	51	1	-	-	-	-

TABLE A - REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Offices	54	54	NIL
Retail Shops	137	135	NIL
Wholesale shops, warehouses	9	9	NIL
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	9	9	NIL
Fuel storage depots	1	1	NIL
TOTALS	210	208	NIL

TABLE B - NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES

29

TABLE C - ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	571
Retail Shops	615
Wholesale departments, warehouses	56
Catering establishments open to the public	33
Canteens	6
Fuel storage depots	7
Total	1,288
Total Males	505
Total Females	783

TABLE D - EXEMPTIONS

Part I - space (Section 5 (2))  
 Part II - temperature (Section 6)  
 Part III - sanitary conveniences (Section 9)  
 Part IV - washing facilities (Section 10)

Class of premises (1)	No. of exemptions current at 31st December (2)	No. of exemptions granted or extended during year (3)	No. of applica- tions refused or exemptions with- drawn during year (4)	No. of cases in Cols. (3) and (4) where employees opposed application (5)	Appeals to Courts against refusal to grant or extend an exemption or against the with- drawal of an exemption	
					No. made (6)	No. allowed (7)
Offices Retail Shops Wholesale Shops, Warehouses Catering Establish- ments open to Public, canteens Fuel storage depots	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

TABLE E - PROSECUTIONS

Prosecutions instituted of which the hearing was completed in 1964 - NIL

Number of complaints (or summary applications) made under Section 29 - NIL

Number of interim orders granted - NIL      TABLE F - INSPECTORS

Number of inspectors appointed under Section 52 (1) or (5) of the Act - 5

Number of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act - NIL